



GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER REINVENTING MICHIGAN

One year ago, this administration pledged to lay the groundwork for Michigan's economic recovery by driving an ambitious reform agenda.

Today, we are getting it right and getting it done. Working together, we approved a structurally balanced budget that eliminates the state's \$1.5 billion deficit while still protecting our priorities. And we did it in record time.

One year ago, Michigan barely had enough money saved in the rainy day fund to run the state for 30 minutes. Today, we are paying down our long-term debt and saving for the future. While the federal government's uncontrolled spending drives our country deeper and deeper into debt, here in Michigan we are taking responsible steps to put our fiscal house in order.

One year ago, Michigan had one of the most anti-business climates in the nation. Now, Michigan has one of the best because we repealed the job-killing Michigan Business Tax and replaced it with a flat, 6-percent corporate income tax that is simple, fair and efficient. We ended the unfair double tax on small businesses.

These steps are putting Michigan in a stronger position. Working together, we are creating a stable environment where businesses can invest, create jobs and grow, and our young people can raise families of their own.



Rick Snyder, Governor



Brian Calley, Lt. Governor

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

- ▶ Repealed the job-killing Michigan Business Tax and replaced it with a flat, 6-percent corporate income tax that is simple, fair and efficient.
- ▶ Ended the unfair double tax on small businesses.
- ▶ Approved a structurally balanced budget that eliminates the state's \$1.5 billion deficit, resulting in Fitch Ratings upgrading Michigan's outlook to positive.
- ▶ The unemployment rate is under 10 percent for the first time in more than three years, and Bloomberg reported Michigan is experiencing the 2nd fastest economic recovery in the nation.
- ▶ Developed the Talent Connect website www.mitalent.org to help those considering education and training opportunities make informed decisions that will lead to employment in fields where jobs are in demand. The MiTalent website also has position listings to help connect job seekers and employers.
- ▶ Launched the Pure Michigan Business Connect, which will result in \$8 billion of investment and capital being made available to Michigan businesses so they can expand and hire.
- ▶ Set up a stable funding source for the Pure Michigan advertising campaign to help the tourism industry grow.
- ▶ Strengthened the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, helping farmers run environmentally sound operations that are economically viable.
- ▶ Included \$75 million in the budget for the 21st Century Jobs Fund to help promote economic development, including funding for Brownfield and Historic Preservation Credits.
- ▶ Devoted 53 percent of state resources in the budget to education – more than all other areas of the budget combined.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE (continued)

- ▶ Created the Michigan Office of Great Start to focus on and coordinate early childhood development and ensure kids are ready to succeed on their first day in the classroom.
- ▶ Approved teacher tenure reform making it easier to remove ineffective teachers from the classroom and ended the “Last In, First Out” practice through which schools make staffing decisions based on seniority instead of performance.
- ▶ Proposed sweeping education reforms aimed at transforming Michigan’s educational system from one still rooted in the days of a mostly farm-based society to one that prepares students for the technological age of today and jobs of tomorrow.
- ▶ Demonstrated fiscal responsibility by putting \$255 million into the state rainy day fund – the first significant deposit in more than a decade.
- ▶ Put more than \$400 million toward paying down unfunded liabilities. Under the old way of doing things, the state was operating on an irresponsible cash in, cash out basis and not preparing for the future.
- ▶ Proposed a comprehensive local government reform plan that focuses on adopting best practices and regional cooperation so taxpayers get value for money.
- ▶ Signed reform legislation that will reduce Michigan’s long-term debt by \$5.6 BILLION by creating a sustainable system for state employee retirement health benefits.
- ▶ Signed legislation ending lawmaker lifetime health care benefits.
- ▶ Updated Michigan’s emergency manager law to give the state an early warning system when local governments are in financial distress and the tools to help communities regain their footing.
- ▶ Established the Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives to focus on reinventing our cities.
- ▶ Kept Medicaid provider reimbursement rates intact to protect the most vulnerable.
- ▶ Preserved jobless benefits for 35,000 unemployed Michigan residents.
- ▶ Changed the law so that young people aging out of Michigan’s foster care system may continue to receive support until age 21 as long as they are in school or working.
- ▶ Signed anti-bullying legislation that requires schools to develop and enforce policies to protect students from harassment, intimidation and physical violence.
- ▶ Avoided layoffs of state police and graduated a new class of troopers.
- ▶ Proposed a comprehensive plan to improve Michigan’s critical infrastructure through a special message to the Legislature.
- ▶ Secured funding from the federal government for an accelerated rail project.
- ▶ Created the Office of Regulatory Reform to review and streamline regulations.
- ▶ Eliminated the outdated and costly Item Pricing Law.
- ▶ Built a new Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website aimed at improving customer service and making information more readily available.
- ▶ Returned welfare to its original intent as temporary help by limiting welfare cash assistance to four years for able-bodied people who are capable of working.
- ▶ Cracked down on Bridge Card abuse by college students, saving taxpayers an estimated \$75 million.
- ▶ Created the Michigan Dashboard to help drive improvements in key areas and provide the state with a gauge to measure success in meeting goals.
- ▶ Brought government employee benefits more in line with the private sector by requiring employees to contribute to the cost of their health care benefits.
- ▶ Vetoed legislation that would have prevented the state from implementing any regulation stricter than federal standards, which would have undermined the state’s ability to deal with situations unique to Michigan.